

shoots of *Frangula alnus*, causing them to droop; it leaves the mine to pupate. Early June is the time to look for the larvae, and the moths emerge in early July. The species has been recorded from Kent (Blean Woods), Sussex (Ashdown Forest) and Hampshire (New Forest).

S. rhamniella Zell. The larva feeds in middle to late June in spun terminal leaves of *Frangula alnus*. The moths begin to emerge in mid-July and continue on the wing until late August (they were still plentiful and in fair condition on the 20th August 1968). So far the species has only been recorded from Wicken Fen.

The moths are very similar in appearance and difficult to differentiate without examination of the genitalia. I only possess a single specimen of *janiszewskae* bred from a pupa given me by Wakely, so I cannot pronounce on that species; but when viewed in series the other two show a measure of difference. There is, however, some overlapping, so it would be difficult to be certain about an individual moth.

Lophyrella is the larger moth (average wing-spread 11 mm.) and the wings are more variegated and colourful. In particular, the basal half of the dorsum forms an ochreous background to the scale-tuft on the fold. In most specimens there is an angulated pale fascia "at three quarters", and black raised scales beyond.

By contrast, *rhamniella* is smaller (average span 10 mm.) and the wings are more uniform in coloration. The dorsal area is paler but seldom ochreous, and then only faintly so, while the angulated fascia is rarely discernable. In general, the moth has a greyer appearance. In my material the white banding of the apical quarter of the antennae is less pronounced than in *lophyrella*, though this may be due to wear and tear.

The distinctions I have cited are based solely on Wicken specimens of the two species, and take no account of possible local variation. My *lophyrella* are all bred, but the majority of my *rhamniella* were caught wild, though my two bred specimens confirm the points of difference I have noted. It is probably safe to say that June moths are *lophyrella*, August moths *rhamniella*, but July moths might be any of the three species.

Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex. 16.xi.1968.

Discovery of the Larva of *Ancylis paludana* Barrett

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Ancylis paludana Barr. is a moth which is confined to the fens of Cambridgeshire and Norfolk; according to Meyrick it is also doubtfully recorded from Germany but otherwise unknown on the continent. Although the moth is not uncommon in its restricted haunts, the larva has long remained undiscovered, though Meyrick hazards that it feeds on *Lathyrus*.

For the last two or three autumns I have collected larvae, which I suspected to belong to this species, at Wicken Fen. I have been successful in bringing them through the winter, but they have refused to pupate. This year I still had living larvae at the end of May—a date by which the first generation of the wild imagines should be flying. This reluctance to pupate in captivity seems to be characteristic of the genus, and probably explains why this species has not previously been bred.

I therefore decided to try my hand at breeding the summer generation, and was successful in rearing four moths. I collected the larvae at Wicken Fen on the 18th June and the moths emerged from the 4th to the 7th July.

The foodplant is the marsh pea (*Lathyrus palustris* L.). At first the larva mines a leaflet, but later makes a spinning in the manner characteristic of the genus. In the marsh pea the leaflets are opposite and project from the stem at an angle of some 60 to 90 degrees to each other. The paludana larva draws a pair of leaves together and spins them into an extremely neat pod—so neat that at first sight the spinning appears to consist of a single leaflet. It is a considerable architectural feat to unite leaves which are relatively so widely separated. The larva feeds inside the pod, depositing its frass at the end nearer the stalk, and blanching the further portion of the leaves. Each larva constructs several pods, often only making a short journey to the adjacent pair of leaflets. The larvae of the summer generation of moths feed in June, and those of the spring generation in September, over-wintering, as has been indicated, as larvae in their cocoons. They leave their pods for this purpose, in captivity spinning up in folds of the tissue paper lining their container. The larva is putty-brown with a slight greenish tinge in some cases, and lacks conspicuous markings.

A different kind of larva, collected on *Lathyrus palustris* on the same day, produced a specimen of *Pandemis dumetana* Treits. This species is known to have a fairly wide range of foodplants, but does not appear to have been previously recorded as feeding on the marsh pea.

Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex. 16.xi.1968.

John Lawson (d. 1711) and the origin of the common name "Buck-Moth" for *Hemileuca maia* (Saturniidae)

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The usual explanation of the Buck-moth's curious name is that given by Holland (1903): "The name . . . is said to have been given to them because they fly at the time when deer-stalking is in order", that is, in the autumn (p. 92). While collecting material for a history of American entomology before Say, I have come upon a more detailed explanation, the history of which forms an interesting, if minor, chapter in the folklore of entomology.

Much had been forgotten about the original meaning of the name by Holland's time. The English collector John Abbot, for many years a resident of Virginia and Georgia, explained over a century earlier (Abbot and Smith, 1797) that the "Moth is called in America the Buck fly, from an erroneous vulgar notion that Bucks breed its caterpillars in their heads, and blow them out of their nostrils. This opinion originated from the fly coming out in the rutting season, while the Bucks are pursuing the Does. The hunters therefore take notice of the insect, in order to know the proper season for their sport, which is later in